Philippine population is, however, greater than that of any state of the American Union except New York, which it equals. It exceeds that of most of the independent countries of Europe and the Americas.

The population of the Islands has shown a steady increase. At the time of the conquest of the Philippines by the Spaniards in the latter part of the sixteenth century, the number of people in the Islands was estimated at half a million. After American occupation, the first official census in 1903 gave the population as 7,635,426. Again in 1918 another census was taken and it was found that there were 10,314,310 persons in the Philippines. It is the consensus of authoritative opinion, as before indicated, that the Philippines in 1936 is approaching the 14,000,000 mark.

The density of the population of the Philippines is over one hundred to the square mile. This means that the Philippines as a whole is but sparsely inhabited. Certain regions, like the section adjacent to Manila, the Island of Cebu, and the Ilocano provinces in the northwestern part of the Island of Luzon, are densely populated. Other regions, like the great Island of Mindanao, except in spots, are thinly populated. A steady flow of immigrants to newly opened districts is taking place and is being encouraged by the authorities. In the Province of Nueva Ecija and elsewhere, this policy has given rise to land troubles. An alleged owner suddenly realizes that land which he has never cultivated and to which he possesses at most only a shadowy title is now valuable and that home-

steaders are upon it. Result, bloody encounters and long-drawn-out legal battles.

Various estimates of the number of inhabitants that the Philippines of the future could sustain have been made. From the agricultural standpoint, according to the last census, the Philippines is capable of supporting a population of 80,000,-ooo, and on this basis, and if imbued with sufficient optimism, we can look forward to a Philippines with 100,000,000 in-